

Treasurer's Summer Report – September 9, 2024

Mayor and Council Meeting

1. MACo Summer Conference

I attended the MACo Summer Conference, which was notably attended by a significant portion of participants from municipalities. This experience has highlighted the value of attending MACo, and I recommend those who participate in the Maryland Municipal League (MML) also consider attending this conference in the future. The conference was particularly focused on emerging technologies and policy developments. Here are some key takeaways:

- **AI in Local Government:** The conference had a strong focus on Artificial Intelligence, with a keynote address by Mo Hasan.
- **Clean Chesapeake Coalition:** Discussions centered on the Conowingo Dam, which traps 4 billion pounds of sediment annually to prevent it from entering the Bay. The dam stands 94 feet high and features 53 flood gates and it at its end of life.
- **Chesapeake Bay Ferry System:** The introduction of the 5-County Coalition for the Chesapeake Bay Ferry System was a major highlight. My wife, who has been actively involved in this initiative, will be featured on several news stations discussing this project.
- **Generative AI:** Applications of Generative AI in enrolling for benefits were explored.
- **Behavioral Health Benefits:** Sessions covered new crisis support measures, consultations, and phone hotlines.
- **Workers' Compensation (WC):** Updates included annual reports on dividends, rates, and exposures.
- **Retirement of Brandon Shoals Coal Fired Power Plant:** The focus was on the impact on BGE rather than PEPCO.
- **Electric Vehicles:** Sen. Augustine chaired this panel for various concerns including:
 - Impact on the power grid.
 - The need to expand the charging network – easy to find stations here vs. on the Eastern Shore.
 - Increased maintenance requirements for roads, bridges, and parking structures due to heavier vehicle weights.
 - Enhanced fire suppression needs, as extinguishing fires now requires significantly more water compared to traditional vehicles, and batteries can spontaneously ignite.
 - New storage guidelines, recommending that vehicles be kept 50 feet away from other vehicles and buildings, and no longer stored in garages.
- **Paid Family and Medical Leave Act:** Requirements for compliance were discussed.
- **Medical and Disability Leave:** Guidelines on overlapping leave were reviewed.
- **Legislative Tracking Software:** A demonstration was provided.
- **Social Security Retirement:** We explored goals and advantages related to retirement timing.
- **Governor's Cabinet Reception:** A networking opportunity with the Governor's Cabinet.

- **Blueprint for the Future Update:** Discussions on funding challenges for counties and the need for the state to continue addressing evolving goals.
- **Governor's Closing Address:** A summary of the Governor's final remarks.

2. Out of Area Participation

In addition to conference activities, I managed the transportation of the Queen Anne's County Economic and Tourism display, which featured a full Tiki Bar assembled in a 10 x 15 booth with complete lighting. This was a notable effort to promote our county and showcase its offerings.

3. Other Items

- **Certified Public Manager's Program:** I am pleased to announce my acceptance into the University of Baltimore's Certified Public Manager's Program. This one-year course, typically valued at \$6,500 plus materials, was obtained through a scholarship, with limited state-wide acceptance. I extend my sincere gratitude to Michelle for her referral, which I believe played a significant role in my acceptance.
- **Audit Work:** The audit for FY24 has started and have been exchanging financial and operational information.
- **Financials for FY25:** As the fiscal year is only two months in and FY24 has just closed, there are no major financial updates to report at this time. A comprehensive 1Q financial report will be available next month.
- **Welcome:** We are excited to welcome Regine Watson as our new Town Clerk!

Thank you for your attention to these updates. Please feel free to contact myself or Christina Daves in our Finance Office if you should have any questions Thank you.

Vito Tinelli

Town Treasurer

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